



**Oh, that explains it**



# Michigan Merit Curriculum High School Graduation Requirements

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November 2006



## TESTING OUT

### What the Michigan Merit Curriculum Law Says

*Sec. 1278(a)(4)(c) A school district or public school academy shall also grant a student a credit if the student earns a qualifying score, as determined by the department, on the assessments developed or selected for the subject area by the department or the student earns a qualifying score, as determined by the school district or public school academy, on 1 or more assessments developed or selected by the school district or public school academy that measure a student's understanding of the subject area content expectations or guidelines that apply to the credit.*

### Previous law regarding testing out -- credit awarded to student not enrolled in course

#### Credit awarded to pupil not enrolled in course

*380.1279b The board of a school district shall grant high school credit in any course to a pupil enrolled in high school, but who is not enrolled in the course, who has exhibited a reasonable level of mastery of the subject matter of the course by attaining a grade of not less than C+ in a final exam in the course, or, if there is no final exam, by exhibiting that mastery through the basic assessment used in the course which may consist of a portfolio, performance, paper, project, or presentation. For the purpose of earning credit under this section, any high school pupil may take the final examination in any course. Credit earned under this section shall be based on a "pass" grade and shall not be included in a computation of grade point average for any purpose. Credit earned under this section may or may not be counted toward graduation, as the board of the school district may determine, but the board's determination shall apply equally to all such credit for all pupils and credit earned under this section shall be counted toward fulfillment of a requirement for a subject area course and shall be counted toward fulfillment of a requirement as to course sequence. Once credit is earned under this section, a pupil may not receive credit thereafter for a course lower in course sequence concerning the same subject area.*

**History:** Add. 1993, Act 335, Imd. Eff. Dec. 31, 1993 **Popular Name:** Act 451

## Questions & Answers

### 1. Q: Is the previous law on testing out, outlined above still in effect?

**A:** Yes. However, the two laws do different things. "Testing out" in the Michigan Merit Curriculum is an option to demonstrate that a student meets or exceeds the content expectations associated with the subject credit area. The instruction needed to test out does not necessarily have to be delivered in a traditional "course sequence," and testing out can occur at any time. The existing testing out law speaks specifically about courses. The final examination should be aligned with the content expectations or guidelines to assign credit. Districts may have to revisit current policies to make sure the two laws are compatible.

### 2. Q: If a student "tests out" of a class, say Algebra I, but NEVER takes the Algebra I class (they knew the material, but didn't put in time IN CLASS), can they receive graduation credit?

**A:** Yes. If students test out of the CREDIT for Algebra I, then the earned credit would count as a required credit for graduation and reduce the total number math credits under the Michigan Merit Curriculum by one credit. Part of the reform initiative is to change the way we think about "seat time" as the criteria for learning - if a student knows the content and can demonstrate this knowledge on course/credit assessment(s), they will get credit.

**3. Q: Can a student test out of a credit required for graduation under the Michigan Merit Curriculum? To test out, does a student need to have a C+ or better?**

**A:** Yes. Public Acts 123 and 124 require a school district or public school academy to grant a student credit if the student earns: 1) a qualifying score, as determined by the department, on the assessments developed or selected for the subject area by the department; OR, 2) the student earns a qualifying score, as determined by the school district or public school academy, on one or more assessments developed or selected by the school district or public school academy that measure a student's understanding of the subject area content expectations or guidelines that apply to the credit.

In addition, based on a previous law still in effect, if using a final exam to measure proficiency, a student must attain a grade of not less than C+, or, if there is no final exam, by exhibiting that mastery through the basic assessment used in the course which may consist of a portfolio, performance, paper, project, or presentation. This law also requires that credits earned through testing not be included in a computation of grade point average for any purpose.